

Utah Division of Water Quality

195 N. 1950 W.
PO Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

Willard Bay Proposal Form

Applicant: Alan Ward

Co-Applicants: Justin Robinson, Jeff Schramm (USFS)

Project Title: *Strawberry River Interpretive Boardwalk*

Agency: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Mailing Address: 777 SR 319, Box 5, Heber City, Utah 84032

Phone: 435-671-8600 or 435-757-0401

Email: alanward@utah.gov ; justinrobinson@utah.gov

1. Estimated Project Costs:

Labor	\$42,500
Materials	\$87,500
Miscellaneous	\$10,000 (engineering and interpretive signs)
Total	\$140,000

Other Sources of Project Funding

Source1:	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	\$10,000 (administrative costs)
Source2:	US Forest Service	\$30,000 (NEPA costs)

Total Project Costs \$180,000

Purpose and Need: The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, in conjunction with the Heber/Kamas Ranger District of the Wasatch Cache National Forest, is proposing to reconstruct and update the current boardwalk system between the US Forest Service Visitors Center and the fish trap operated by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) on the Strawberry River just above Strawberry Reservoir.

The current structure has served its purpose well, however, at over 25 years old the current boardwalk has far outlived its useful life. The wood is deteriorating rapidly, and public safety may become a concern in the near future. In fact, during 2012 the Forest Service removed about 750 feet of the old boardwalk system on the other side of the road from the fish trap due to boardwalk failure, and we cannot afford to lose the connection to the fish trap for the public.

Strawberry Reservoir is one of Utah's premier fisheries, receiving as much as 1.5 million angler hours annually. With all of the traffic through the area, the current boardwalk system accommodates thousands of visitors each year as they make their way to the fish trap. During a single year we have documented over 11,000 visitors, with as many as 5,300 coming during the month of September alone. There are undoubtedly many more that are undocumented after hours. At the Visitors Center and the fish trap we accommodate approximately 700-800 kids annually on formal school trips to see the spawning fish, wildlife, and stream system. Many other tours through the boardwalk system occur each year for a diverse group of people from Boy Scout Troops to university tours, Congressional leaders, heads of agencies, and others.

A considerable amount of interpretation regarding natural stream systems, fish spawning activities, water quality, wildlife, and stream restoration efforts takes place on these tours. About \$1.5 million has been spent on stream restoration in this stretch of river (and upstream), and the restoration work is continuing just upstream. This boardwalk, with its interpretive signs allows us to educate a large number of people across all walks of life about the restoration efforts, stream systems, and the wildlife found there.

We are proposing to replace the current boardwalk with new construction of synthetic decking material that should have less maintenance, and should last longer, than the current wood structure. This would involve approximately 1134 ft of boardwalk, and two look-out platforms. We would also update many faded and outdated interpretive signs, and all construction would adhere to ADA requirements. UDWR will oversee the construction, engineering will be contracted out to a private engineer, a construction company to complete the work will be contracted through State Purchasing Guidelines, and the Forest Service will approve engineering plans and make sure NEPA is covered.

Partners:

Jeff Schramm (Forest Service) Heber/Kamas Ranger District Office 435-654-0470

Estimated Time Frame:

November 2014: Secure engineering drawings and specifications for review by Forest Service planning and NEPA.

July 2015: Begin removal of old boardwalk and installation of new boardwalk.

August 24th 2015: Construction completed before kokanee spawning run.

November 2015: Final reports completed and submitted.

Signature: 

Date: 5/5/2014

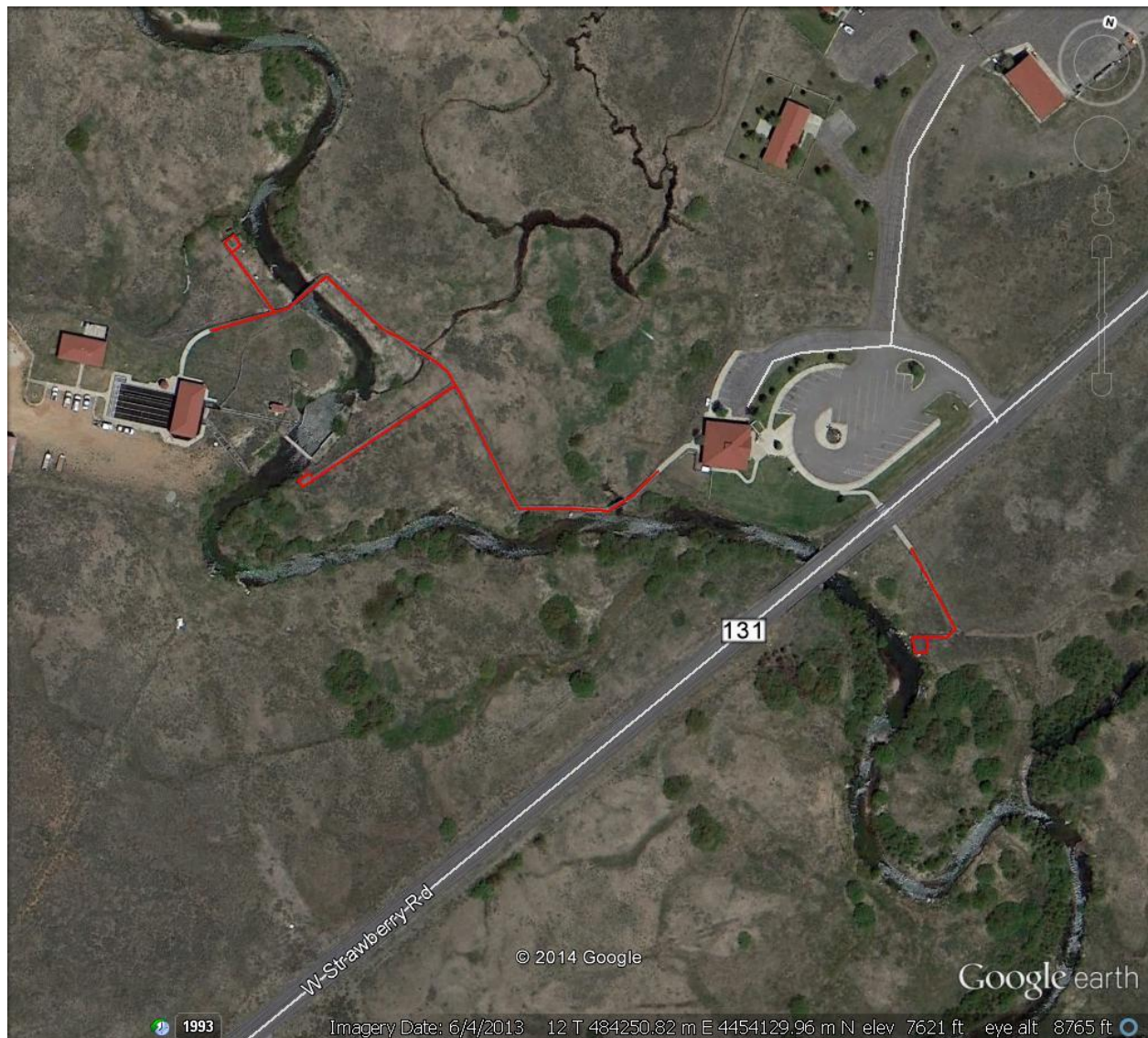


Figure 1. Proposed interpretive boardwalk structure (in red) from the Forest Service Visitors Center to UDWR Fish Trap.